

WHY IS A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND GOOD HYGIENE IMPORTANT FOR PROTECTING AGAINST POLIO AND OTHER DISEASES?

- Polio spreads very fast in places with poor hygiene and sanitation, open defecation and overcrowding.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS THAT ONE HAS CONTRACTED POLIO VIRUS?

- Fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, pain in the limbs.
- Signs of floppiness and/or weakness in the arm or legs.

WHY IS GOOD NUTRITION IS IMPORTANT FOR CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

- Under nourished children, (thin, short, anaemic or with vitamin A deficiency) are at greater risk of dying from simple and common childhood infections like diarrhoea, colds or respiratory infections.
- Identifying children early and treating them will help to reduce illness and mortality.
- Promotion of adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices will also help to prevent under-nutrition.
- Vitamin supplementation will prevent anaemia, night blindness and eye diseases.

BASICS OF POLIO



WHAT IS POLIO?

Polio is a highly infectious disease which affects young children. There is no cure for polio; it is a crippling disease and can only be prevented by immunization.

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

The polio virus enters the body through the mouth, in water or food that has been contaminated with faecal material ("pek-pek") from an infected person.

- Good hygiene is important in preventing the spread of the virus.

WHY ARE CHILDREN GIVEN ORAL POLIO VACCINE (OPV)?

The polio vaccine is the only protection against polio.



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IS IT SAFE?

OPV is safe and effective, and is essential protection for children under 15 years against polio. It has virtually no side-effects and has been used all over the world to protect children against polio.

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING MULTIPLE ROUNDS?

- Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) requires multiple doses to achieve full immunity in the child.
- It requires a minimum of 6-8 doses for the child to achieve full protection and immunity.
- Adults rarely develop symptoms of polio, but they can carry and transmit the polio virus without getting the disease.
- For young children who have already received the polio vaccination during routine immunization, additional doses should still be given at EVERY ROUND TO FURTHER BOOST THEIR IMMUNITY

IS OPV SAFE FOR SICK CHILDREN AND NEWBORNS?

Yes. OPV is safe to be given to sick children and newborns. In fact, it is particularly critical that sick children and newborn babies are immunized, because their immunity levels are lower than other children's.

WHERE TO GO FOR VACCINATION?

- Vaccination is being given in all **Government health centers and clinics** free of charge.
- Additionally, there are community outreach teams which are visiting every village, to provide OPV as part of the **Polio Outbreak Response**.

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION?

Polio is your child's worst enemy, because the virus can cripple your child for life or even kill. The polio vaccine and other vaccines build a strong wall between your child and various diseases.

BLOCKING TRANSMISSION ROUTES

